



Otago College Newsletter

Friday 07th November 2025

Important Notices

Wednesday 12 th – Friday 14 th November	Junior Volleyball champs (Bruce Pullman Arena)
Wednesday 12 th – Friday 14 th November	L1 Literacy Further Assessment Opportunity (Selected students)
Thursday 13 th November	Year 9 Science Exam (Periods 3 and 4)
Friday 14 th November	Y10 Science Exam (Periods 1 and 2) Y11 Science Exam (Periods 3 and 4)



From Our Principal

External exams have started well, attendance has been excellent and thank you to all the staff who have run tutorials and extra workshops. Junior exams start next week and all students should be studying 30 minutes a night for each subject they have an examination in.

Four of our students recently completed the French DELF exam. The results ranged from 85% to 91% showing our students represented Ōtāhuhu College proudly in this prestigious international exam.

The Year 10 leadership camp has been an excellent success and a great opportunity for our students.

Our Commitments

Our commitment is to be respectful. A key part of being respectful is using appropriate language. Learning what words, and indeed the volume, you use in different circumstances is one of the challenges of growing up into young men and women. Teenagers find this hard to do, so talking to them and explaining how different situations require the use of different words and mannerisms is a great step on developing articulate respectful young men and women.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school, providing a written note explaining the reason is critical. This simple act helps Otago College maintain accurate attendance records and ensures that absences are justified.

Whether due to illness or unavoidable family matters, a clear explanation helps us identify patterns and provide the necessary support for students.

Parents and caregivers can email, call, or send a written note with their child. Let's work together to maintain open communication and address any attendance challenges promptly.

Kātaki 'o 'omai ha tohi fekau'aki mo e 'uhinga na'e nofo ai ho'o tamá 'i he akó.
Faamolemole, aumai se tusi e faamalamalama ai pe'a le alu le tamaititi i le aoga.



Study News

Compulsory Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy Further Assessment Opportunities (FAOs)

Kia ora e te whānau,

Students in Year 11 that have not completed their Numeracy corequisite and / or currently have zero Level 1 Literacy credits, and students in Year 12 that have not completed their Numeracy and / or Level 1 Literacy corequisites, **are required to attend Further Assessment Opportunities (FAOs). FAOs start next week (Wednesday 12th November)**. Students have been given all the necessary information at school, emails have been sent home, and texts will be sent in due course. FAOs are a one-time opportunity and not negotiable. Attendance is essential.

The literacy FAO provides the opportunity to achieve 5 of the 10 required Level 1 Literacy credits. To be clear, this FAO alone does not complete the Year 11 L1 Literacy corequisite. Students still need to gain the remaining 5 Level 1 Literacy credits through their upcoming externals (English, Commerce and Geography which each have 5 Level 1 Literacy credits).

A reminder: Students cannot achieve NCEA without completing their Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy corequisites. Our teachers are working hard to provide these extra chances to ensure every student can progress successfully.

To support your child, please ensure they:

- Speak to their whānau teacher
- Know where they need to be and when
- Attend school every day, on time.
- Give their best effort

Please do not make any plans that would require your child to be out of school during their FAOs or externals.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Mrs Christensen mchristensen@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Or your child's dean:

- Y12 Mr Martin amartin@otahuhucollege.school.nz
- Y11 Ms Norgate enorgate@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Thank you for working with us to ensure your child has the best chance of succeeding.

Ngā mihi nui,

Melinda Christensen.





EXTERNALS

It is important that students prepare and perform well in their externals because:

- Year 11 students are aiming to complete their Level 1 Literacy corequisite by passing their English, Commerce, Geography external(s) (5 Level 1 Literacy credits each).
- Year 11 History external is a pathway to all-important UE Writing credits needed for University Entrance
- Year 12 and Year 13 externals are a pathway to all-important UE Literacy credits needed for University Entrance
- Year 12 and Year 13 students unable to earn 60 Level 2 or Level 3 credits internally, must gain the remainder from externals.
- To earn a subject endorsement, students need 14 credits in one subject, including 3 from an external. For an Excellence endorsement, all 14 credits must be at Excellence; for a Merit endorsement, all 14 must be at Merit or higher.
- Exam performance tells universities and employers that students: have discipline and are not afraid of hard work, can adapt to challenging situations, and are independent and don't need to be "spoon-fed", which are skills needed by every workplace and every profession.
- To see the 2025 NCEA externals timetable, copy and paste the following link into your browser:
<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/NCEA/2025-Exam-Timetable.pdf>

Enrolments

Enrolments are still open for all new students wishing to start in 2026. Please ask for an enrolment form from the school office or you can click the link below to apply online

<https://otahuhucollege.school.kiwi/enrolment>

School office hours :
Monday – Friday
08.30am – 3.30pm



Senior School

Year 13 Business Studies

Congratulations to Saico, winners of the Excellence in Business Direction | Tohu Whakahirahira i te Aronga Pakihi award at the Young Enterprise, Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Awards. This prestigious award celebrates outstanding vision, planning, and leadership in business.

Saico impressed with their innovative cultural sports towels — a product that blends style, identity, and practicality for athletes and active communities. From concept to sales, the team showed strong direction, adaptability, and pride in their cultural roots.



Team Members:

Isaiah Martini, Andy Nguyen, Om Prakash, Sonny Steward-Samuels, Cruiz Huavi, Kiara Ropati



Sports News

Congratulations to our Junior Waka Ama team who won bronze against strong contenders at the Junior Waka Ama regatta November 1st. Well done such a great achievement



Horticulture

Junior and Lotuseini attack a tree on the sawbuck with our two-person saw.



Logan and Vishneel tackle a tree trunk with a two-person saw

